

Mersch Hotel



Mersch Hotel on the west side of the 100 block of S. Central Ave., in 1899

Thomas Mersch was born in Luxembourg, Germany February, 1848. He came to the United States in 1863 with his parents, John and Catherine Mersch. The 1870 Federal Census shows Thomas working as a farm laborer for a man named Theodore Wagoner in Brookfield, Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

In 1873, Thomas married Susan Fohl, in Nenno, Washington County, Wisconsin.. By the 1880 Federal Census they were living in Addison, Washington County, Wisconsin and he was making a living as a saloonkeeper. Before the end of that year, the Mersch family came to Marshfield and Thomas began conducting business at the Mersch Hotel on S. Central Avenue. On June 27th, 1887, his hotel was completely destroyed in the Marshfield Fire. By July 8th, only several weeks after the fire, Thomas Mersch announced he would rebuild the hotel that he had lost and he was doing business in a temporary structure in front of his hotel location. In less than a month, after that, August 5, 1887, the foundation for the Thomas Mersch Hotel was completed .

was added to the Thos. Mersch Hotel, valued at \$1,700.00. Another building was added to the north of the Mersch Hotel in the summer of 1903.

By August 26, 1887, the Thos. Mersch Saloon and residence measured 22'x50' and two stories high. The formal opening was held on October 8, 1887. In January 1892, an addition

On June 30, 1908, the committee on saloon licenses, appointed by the mayor and approved by the council, made their report at a special meeting of the council at city hall, and recommended that a liquor license be granted to Thos. Mersch, among others.

Thomas' wife Susan, passed away on July 2, 1911 and is buried in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Marshfield, near their son, John. (See her obituary, later in this article.)

By February, 1913, Tom Mersch had already sold his hotel and was attending to some business in Alma, Wisconsin. During the time of the 1920 Federal Census, Thomas was living with his son-in-law, Fred Senn, here in Marshfield.

Thomas suffered a stroke in 1925 and another in 1926, resulting in his death on November 5, 1926. (His obituaries follow.) (Information taken from numerous newspapers and census records... Marshfield Times, November 6, 1912, p.5; Marshfield Times, April



Lillian Mersch (Mrs. Fred Senn), daughter of Thomas Mersch

15, 1887, p.1; *Marshfield Times*, August 5, 1887, p.1; *Marshfield Times*, August 26, 1887, p.1; *Marshfield Times*, October 7, 1887, p.1; *Marshfield Times*, January 18, 1889, p.4; *Marshfield Times*, November 14, 1890, p.1;

Marshfield Times, January 1, 1892, p.2; *Marshfield Times*, June 26, 1903, p.7; *Marshfield Times*, July 1, 1908, p.1; *Marshfield Times*, July 12, 1911, p.7; *Marshfield Times*, November 13, 1912, p.7; *Marshfield Times*, February 24, 1913, p.6 and *Federal Census* for 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920.)

Thomas Mersch, aged 79, pioneer hotel man and a resident of Marshfield for half a century, died following a paralytic stroke. Mersch owned and operated one of the first hotels in Marshfield, which was destroyed in the memorable fire forty years ago. He rebuilt the hotel and conducted it until 12 years ago when he retired from active life. One daughter, Mrs. Fred Senn, of Marshfield, survives.
(*Wisconsin Daily Rapids Tribune*, November 8, 1926)



Thomas Mersch Saloon & Hotel, 112-114 S. Central Avenue, prior to the 1903 addition.
(photo from the North Wood County Historical Society)

Mr. Mersch came to this country with his parents at the age of 16. About 45 years ago he and his wife, to whom he was married more than half a century ago, came to Marshfield, his home ever since. Mrs. Mersch died 15 years ago.

The deceased is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Senn, three brothers, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Funeral services will be held from the Sacred Heart Catholic church at nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

(*Sheboygan Press*, November 10, 1926)

Mrs. Thomas Mersch Passes Away Sunday

Mrs. Susan Fohl Mersch, wife of Thomas Mersch, the well known hotel man who resides on South Central Avenue near Depot Street, passed away Sunday afternoon at the residence, aged fifty-eight years. She had

Tom Mersch, Long Hotel Man at Marshfield, Dies
Marshfield, Wis.— Tom Mersch, pioneer settler and a former hotelkeeper in this city, passed away Friday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Fred Senn, at the advanced age of eighty years. Mr. Mersch suffered a stroke of paralysis a year ago and since that time his health has been failing. A second stroke a week ago resulted in his death.

Born in Luxembourg, Germany,

been ailing for the last three years, and for several months had been unable to leave her bed except a few times. To the last she was a patient and seemed unusually strong in the face of the end which she was able to foresee.

Mrs. Mersch was born in Germantown, Wis., fifty-nine years ago next October. She was married to Thomas Mersch January 22, 1873, at the Peter and Paul Catholic church in Nenno, Washington County. They came to Marshfield seven years later, and have lived here for more than thirty years since. Both Mr. And Mrs. Mersch have enjoyed a wide acquaintance throughout the county.

Surviving are the husband; two daughters, Mrs. F. J. Senn and Mrs. J. F. Prochnow, of this city; six grandchildren; two brothers, John Fohl of Stockton, Minn., and Michael Fohl of Sleepy Eye, Minn., both of whom were expected yesterday; and three sisters, Mrs. G. R. Anderson of Marshfield, Mrs. Rathschlag of Rock Island, Ill., and Mrs. Melchior of Stanley, all of the sisters being here for the funeral.

*The services were held yesterday morning at St. John's Catholic Church in charge of Rev. Fr. Mechler. Interment was at the Marshfield Catholic Cemetery.
(Marshfield News, July 6, 1911, p.1)*

Death of Mrs. Thomas Mersch

Mrs. Susan Mersch, wife of Landlord Thomas Mersch, died Sunday afternoon after a protracted illness, having been an invalid for the past several years. The funeral took place Wednesday forenoon from St. John's Church, conducted by Fr. Mechler. The following relatives were present from out of town: John Fohl, brother of deceased, and wife of Stockton, Minn.; Mesdames Katie Mersch and W. Volkman, nieces of Mr. Mersch, of Juno, Wis.; Mrs. Kate Melchior of Stanley and Mrs. Katie Rathschlag of Rock Elm, sisters of deceased, and Mike Gaehl of Hartford.

*Mrs. Mersch was born in Germantown, near Milwaukee, Oct. 22, 1852, and spent her youth there. She was married to Mr. Mersch 38 years ago and came to Marshfield in 1880, being one of the prominent pioneers of the ciety. Deceased was a woman of energy and high character and was universally esteemed. Her husband and two daughters, Mesdames F. J. Senn and J. F. Prochnow, survive her and have the sympathy of many friends in their loss.
(Marshfield Times, July 5, 1911, p.1)*

Died

After an illness of over five years another patient mother and respected citizen has given up life's battle. Mrs. Thos. Mersch aged 58 years and nine months passed away at the family residence 110 South Central Avenue, Sunday, July 2nd at 1:30 p.m. The end was not unexpected as from years of pain the separation of soul and body came as a relief to the sufferer. The funeral was held Wednesday at 10 a.m. from St. John's Catholic Church Rev. Mechler preaching the funeral sermon. The floral offerings from near and distant relatives and friends were lavish and beautiful. Deceased whose maiden name was Susan Fohl was born at Germantown Oct. 22, 1852 where 14 years of her life was spent. From there the family moved to Nenno where at the age of 20 she married Thos. Mersch. In 1889 Mr. And Mrs. Mersch came to this city where they have since resided, Mrs. Mersch being reckoned among the pioneer women. She was a lady of remarkable vitality, true worth, sterling integrity and unquestionable character, one to whose memory and life all who knew her can ever point with pride. She was the mother of three children, Mrs. Fred Senn and Mrs. Julius Prochnow and a son who died at the age of six years. The two daughters and a husband still survive her. The family have the sympathy of all. Out of town relatives attending the funeral were John Fohl brother of deceased, and wife, of Stockton, Minn.; Mesdames Katie Mersch and W. Volkman, nieces of Mr. Mersch of Juno, Wis.; Mrs. Kate Melchior of

Stanley, Mrs. Katie Rathschlag of Rock Elm, sisters of deceased, Mike Gaehl of Hartford and Mrs. Lena Mersch of Beaver Dam.

(Marshfield Herald, July 8, 1911, p.1)

Children of Thomas & Susan Mersch:

Karl John Mersch, 1875—1895 [1882]

Lillian Emelia Mersch, 1877—1944

Dora J. Mersch, 1883—1923

See also the story of [Jimmie's Café](#)

See also the story of the [Majestic Hotel](#)

See also the story of [126—132 S Central Avenue](#)

If you have any additional information (including pictures) regarding this business or location, we would really appreciate you contacting us and sharing. We will add information whenever possible.

For questions, or for sharing additional information, please contact us at schnitzler.vickie@charter.net

Please include what story the information relates to. Attach your text information in the form of a word document, please no PDF's. Photos should preferably be in jpeg format.

For additional stories on the historical sights and businesses of Marshfield, visit our website at: <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/QR-Codes-of-Historical-Marshfield.html>.